Implementation of schemes by private and public sector

†2956. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the system regarding implementation of Government's development schemes by the joint enterprises of private sector and public sector may be the first step towards privatisation;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government has decided to implement the said system throughout the country; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the benefits of implementing this system comprising private sector and public sector in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) No, Sir. There is no such system.

(b) to (d) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

Mitigation of regional inequalities

2957. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the steps for mitigating backwardness and regional inequalities;

(b) whether Prime Minister had committed for mitigating backwardness and regional inequalities;

(c) if so, what is being considered in this regard; and

(d) what prevents the Central Government from considering Bihar's claim for rehabilitation following the devastating Kosi floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): (a) to (c) Reducing backwardness and regional inequalities has been one of the objectives of planning since its inception. Although, planning and development of an area and allocation of funds is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments, Central Government is committed to supplement the efforts of the State Governments for mitigating regional inequalities. The Government of India introduced the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF) in 2006-07 designed to address this issue and aiming at catalyzing development in backward areas by (a) providing infrastructure, (b) promoting good governance and agrarian reforms, and (c) converging, through supplementary infrastructure and capacity building, the substantial existing development inflows into the identified districts. The programme has two components, namely, the Special Plans for Bihar and the Kalahandi-Bolangir-Koraput (KBK) Districts of Orissa and the Districts Component covering 250 backward districts. An annual allocation of Rs. 5800 crore is being

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.